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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,815	05/11/2006	Hiroaki Tanaka	P28512	7661
7055	7590	03/08/2007		
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191	EXAMINER			
GILMAN, ALEXANDER				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2833		
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS		03/08/2007		ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/08/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com  
pto@gbpatent.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/549,815	TANAKA, HIROAKI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Alexander D. Gilman	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/11/2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Byrne (US 5,941,720) and Byrne ((US 5,171,159) – multiple reference MPEP, 2131. 01.

With regard to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Byrne disclose (Fig. 1) a power strip comprising:

two or more spaced-apart socket sections (150) each having a set of terminal insertion holes for insertion of plug terminals of a power cable or the like, and  
a flexible cover section (142) of substantially tubular shape with corrugations that perpendicularly intersect the longitudinal direction of the cover section and substantially covers and interconnects the socket sections.

With regard to claims 10, 11, -12 Byrne (5,941,720) presents the geometrical relationships of claims 10, 11, -12, since sets of sockets can be disposed along imaginary line (Fig. 1) and along the line being perpendicular to the imaginary line (Fig. 8). Also, Byrne (US 5, 171,159) disclose (col. 5, lines31-33).

Claims 1-6, 8, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boundy.

With regard to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Boundy (US 4,278, 834) disclose (Fig. 9-11) a power strip comprising:

two or more spaced-apart socket sections (126) each having a set of terminal insertion

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holes for insertion of plug terminals of a power cable or the like, and  
a flexible cover section (131) of substantially tubular shape with corrugations that  
perpendicularly intersect the longitudinal direction of the cover section and substantially covers  
and interconnects the socket sections.

With regard to claims 6,8, Boundy discloses (Fig. 9-11) that the bumps and dips have an  
undulation shape that fits into the corrugations of the cover Section or joint section.

With regard to claim 13 Boundy discloses that the joint section or cover section is  
integrally connected and fastened to the socket section (col. 4, lines 61-63).

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese  
Document 09—63723.

Document 09—63723 (Fig. 1) presents the geometrical relationships of claims 10-12,  
since sets of sockets 4 and 5 being disposed on lines mutually perpendicular.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all  
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 7,9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Byrne in  
view of Dearman.

Byrne does not explicitly disclose structural features of socket section attachment to the cover  
section or joint section.

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Dearman (US 4,615,574) discloses (Fig. 1-4) bumps and dips (29) on peripheral surface of the socket section and the end of cover section being formed without corrugations..

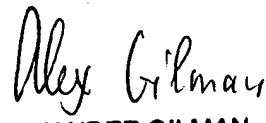
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fix the cover section to the socket using Dearman's features , as taught by Dearman, to make the connection reenterable and hence convenient for maintenance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

3/2/2007

  
ALEXANDER GILMAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER